

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US, IS

SUBJECT: PRESS STRESSES DIFFICULTIES OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGREES

1. SEVERAL RECENT ARTICLES IN SOVIET PRESS CONTINUE CAMPAIGN TO DISCOURAGE EMIGRATION BY PORTRAYING LIFE OUTSIDE SOVIET UNION FOR JEWISH EMIGRANTS IN PESSIMISTIC TERMS. LEADING CULTURAL WEEKLY, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, CARRIES THREE-COLUMN ARTICLE APRIL 9 WHICH QUOTES AT LENGTH FROM AMERICAN MEDIA ON LIFE FOR SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS WHO LEFT FOR ISRAEL BUT NOW LIVE IN U.S. LITGAZ COVERS NY TIMES ARTICLE BY RECENT EMIGRANT YURIY BROKHIN, WALTER CRONKITE TELEVISION SHOW ON SOVIET JEWS IN U.S., AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, WASHINGTON POST (SUSAN JACOBY PIECE), AND RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE EMIGRE PAPER "NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO" ON SAME THEME. MAJOR THEMES EMPHASIZED BY SELECTED EXCERPTS ARE UNEMPLOYMENT, INABILITY TO WORK IN SPECIALTIES, LACK OF CONCERN FOR EMIGRANT'S PROBLEMS ON PART OF AMERICANS, AND GENERAL FEELING OF ALIENATION IN AMERICAN SOCIETY.

2. NOVOSTI PRESS ARTICLE NOW APPEARING IN SEVERAL CENTRAL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGIONAL PAPERS ALSO TAKES A WHACK AT ISRAEL BY DEPICTING

ISRAELI EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AS PRIMITIVE AND BIBLE-BASED, AND AIMED AT WHIPPING UP HATE FOR ARABS AND ENCOURAGING MILITARISM. FINALLY, ARTICLE ENTITLED "JUDAISM AND ZIONISM" IN MOSCOW KOMSOMOL NEWSPAPER APRIL 5, WHICH WILL PROBABLY MAKE ITS WAY INTO OTHER PAPERS, ALLEGES THAT ZIONISTS TRY TO USE JEWISH RELIGION AND MYTH OF "CHOSEN PEOPLE" TO CONVINCE JEWS THEY CAN LIVE FULL LIVES ONLY IN ISRAEL. BOTH ARTICLES HAVE ANTI-SEMITIC TONE, PARTICULARLY LATTER, WHICH ATTACKS AMERICAN JEWISH SCHOLAR FOR SAYING THAT RELIGIOUS JEWS ARE PERSECUTED IN SOVIET UNION AND THEN, PERHAPS UNWITTINGLY, MAKES THE SAME POINT BY SAYING THAT "THE HIGH CULTURAL LEVEL OF THE SOVIET PERSON AND BELIEF IN GOD ARE INCOMPATIBLE IDEAS."

3. COMMENT: WHILE FURTHER PROPAGANDIZING OF PROBLEMS FOR EMIGRANTS IN U.S. AND ISRAEL MAY CAUSE SOME JEWS TO RETHINK THEIR INCLINATION TO EMIGRATE, ARTICLES SUCH AS LATTER TWO, WITH THEIR ANTI-SEMITIC AND ANTI-RELIGIOUS FLAVOR, MAY HAVE EFFECT OF CONVINCING MORE THAT THEY SHOULD LEAVE.
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